

## Message Text

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TAGS: OCON, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: ECOSOC COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES - RECOMMENDATION  
ON MINERALS: INFORMATION SYSTEM

1. THIS MSG IS THIRD OF SIX MSGS. CONTAINING PRELIMINARY DRAFTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS PROPOSED BY VLADIMIR BAUM, WHICH REFLECT POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AT FORTHCOMING TOKYO MEETING. THIS MSG. PERTAINS TO RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING NATURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING A NATURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM THE COMMITTEE RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF TIME- LY AND RELIABLE INFORMATION ON A CONTINUOUS BASIS, AND NOTING THE LACK OF COMPREHENSIVE DATA ON MINERAL AND ENERGY REOURCES. STR- ESSED THE IMPORTANT ROLE THE UNITED NATIONS INCLUDING THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS, AND IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES SHOULD PLAY AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR SUCH AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE BROAD MANDATE GIVEN TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1761 B (LIV) SHOULD BE INTERPRETED IN A BROAD UNCLASSIFIED

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SENSE ENCOMPASSING THE QUESTION OF THE COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND

DISSEMINATION OF TIMELY AND RELIABLE INFORMATION ON IMPORTANT TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS, AS A TOOL TO POLICY-MAKERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND NOT IN A NARROWER SENSE OF PROVIDING MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM PROJECTION PER SE.

IT WAS FURTHER AGREED THAT AN INFORMATION SYSTEM OPERATED BY THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD AIM FACILITATING THE EXCHANGE OF USEFUL INFORMATION DERIVED FROM OTHER SOURCES MAKING IT READILY ACCESSIBLE FOR USE BY POLICY MAKERS PARTICULARLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HOWEVER IN AS MUCH AS THERE ARE GAPS IN THE ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL FACTORS AFFECTING TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENT CONCERNING RESERVES, RESOURCES AND DEMAND, AND PARTICULARLY THOSE OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE FOR POLICY FORMULATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD ENDEAOUR TO FILL SUCH GAPS.

IN THIS CONNEXION THE COMMITTEE ENDORSED THE 1976-1977 WORK PROGRAMME CONCERNING THE COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION AS A FIRST STEP IN ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OUTLINED ABOVE WITHIN THE PRESENT BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS. THE COMMITTEE APPRECIATED THE INITIAL EFFORTS MADE BY THE SECRETARIAT IN ESTABLISHING WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH RELEVANT GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. IT NOTED HOWEVER, THAT SUCH CONTACTS WERE STILL INSUFFICIENT.

THE COMMITTEE ACCORDINGLY RECOMMENDED THAT A MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MAIN GOVERNMENTAL AND OF SOME PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS DEALING WITH INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS OF TRENDS OF ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES, RESERVES, RESOURCES AND DEMAND BE ORGANIZED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY THE TYPE OF TECHNOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION AVAILABLE AND THE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS THAT COULD BE AGREED TO FOR MAKING IT READILY ACCESSIBLE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AND THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS TO USERS IN ALL COUNTRIES.

THE COMMITTEE WAS ALSO OF THE OPINION THAT SELECTED IN DEPTH STUDIES OF MINERAL RESERVES AND RESOURCES COULD BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. IN THIS RESPECT THE COMMITTEE RECALLED THE VERY VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE STUDY ON IRON ORE RESERVES. THE COMMITTEE

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RECOMMENDS THAT SUCH STUDIES BE UNDERTAKEN ON A CONTINUOUS BASIS, POSSIBLY FOR ONE MINERAL EVERY TWO YEARS FOR THE ENSURING SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE AND FOR DISSEMINATION ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS.

BEARING IN MIND THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS THE COMMITTEE APPEALS TO GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER STATES TO MAKE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED INFORMATION SYSTEM WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OF ITS NATURAL RESOURCES. IT ALSO INVITES GOV-

ERNMENTS TO SUPPLEMENT THE EXPERTISE AVAILABLE TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
BY LENDING ITS OWN EXPERTISE FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES AS THE NEED  
MAY ARISE, OR TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE OPERATIONS OF THE SYSTEM AT ITS  
MAXIMUM POSSIBLE CAPACITY THROUGH FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.  
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